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SIPDIS

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NSC FOR MELINE
CDR USPACOM FOR J3/J4/POLAD
USEU PASS USEC

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [EAID](#) [AEMR](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [CE](#)
SUBJECT: SRI LANKA - EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMIS:
USAID/DART SITREP #8

SUMMARY

[¶1.](#) As of January 18, according to the Center for National Operations (CNO), the earthquake and tsunamis had killed 30,922 people in Sri Lanka. The U.S. Military hopes to transition water distribution duties in Galle to the Galle Water Board by January 25. The U.S. Military continues to work on school debris cleaning in Galle and plans to complete the cleaning by January 25. Several donors are planning a verification trip to Trincomalee in early February [¶2005](#). Between January 4 and January 18, the U.S. Military completed or initiated 73 requests for assistance. The USAID/DART Water and Sanitation Officer (WSO) reported that sanitation is a priority need. End summary.

Death Tolls

[¶12.](#) The CNO, which is responsible for the overall coordination of the relief effort in Sri Lanka, reports that as of January 18 at 1630 hours local time, the earthquake and tsunamis had killed 30,922 people, injured 15,196 residents, displaced 437,482 persons, completely damaged 78,126 houses, and partially damaged 40,841 houses. Currently there are 5,565 persons missing. According to the CNO, there are 370 camps housing displaced persons. On January 17, the General and Public Security Ministry (GPSM) reported that the death toll was 30,925; however, the USAID/Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) has confirmed that the GPSM was double-counting deaths.

Catholic Relief Services - Activities in Batticaloa District

[¶13.](#) According to the USAID/DART, USAID/Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) implementing partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has contributed to the development of the temporary shelter strategy that is being submitted for ratification to the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The model temporary shelter unit constructed by CRS at their office in Colombo has been used by UNHCR, in demonstrations to the GOSL, to illustrate the proposed provision of 20 square meter framed units.

[¶14.](#) In Batticaloa in eastern Sri Lanka, CRS has erected temporary shelter units as well as short-term emergency shelters. The demonstration unit adjacent to the CRS partner office utilizes a timber frame plus several different types of roofing materials, including metal sheeting, corrugated weatherized tarpaper, and clay tiles. The sidewall enclosure uses cajan or woven coconut leaf matting. A similar unit with a clay tiled roof and cajan matting has been erected on the first relocation site in the division of Aryanpathy, an urban infill site. The District Superintendent and the District technical team have

inspected and approved this model.

15. To date, the local authorities have identified 14 sites for use as possible transit locations, and CRS has been undertaking site visits to assess their suitability and to begin site surveys and preliminary site planning. Local procurement is underway for the first tranche of materials, to ensure rapid delivery of the supplies (avoiding the need for intermediate warehousing) and to enable localized quality control.

16. In Ampara, CRS has erected demonstration units and is focusing on divisions in the northern part of Ampara District. Coordination among shelter agencies in Ampara is not as advanced as in Batticaloa, but according to CRS, shelter coordination meetings in the next few days should provide greater clarity for temporary shelter activities. The CRS team has been working with the local authorities to identify smaller areas of land within the unrestricted urban zone to enable relocation activities to start on a small scale at least. CRS has established a warehouse and started the localized procurement of materials for the first 100 units.

Situation in Galle

17. According to the USAID/DART Logistics Officer (LO) located in Galle, the Galle Water Board stated that it has the capacity to produce 18,000 cubic meters of clean drinking water per day, but it does not have the ability to transport the water to all necessary locations. However, the Maltese Order will provide four water trucks that can hold a capacity of 4.5 cubic meters each to the Galle Water Board, and this should fill the transportation need. These trucks will also be able to pump water. Until the water trucks arrive, the Galle Water Board plans to use portable water bladders in the back of trucks. According to the USAID/DART LO, the first water truck donated by the Maltese Order will arrive on January 19 and will be operational on January 20. The remaining three trucks will arrive in two to three day increments.

18. The U.S. Military continues water distributions in Hikkaduwa but hopes to be able to transition these duties to the Galle Water Board by January 25. The USAID/DART LO reported that the Galle Water Board is currently reviewing plans to take over water distribution, but anticipates that they may not be able to fill all water needs. For example, the USAID/DART LO stated that the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) plans to move those residents that reside within 100 meters of the coastline to temporary shelters. The GOSL is trying to find land to build between 5,000 and 6,000 temporary shelters, and the Galle Water Board does not believe that it will be able to meet the demand for water for those internally displaced persons (IDPs) who will be located in these temporary shelters. [Note: The USAID/DART LO stated that the U.S. Military hopes to obtain a firm date for the transition of water distribution services to the Galle Water Board within 24 hours. End Note.]

19. The USAID/DART LO reported that water testing has occurred at wells in schools; however the water has been deemed acceptable for washing but not for drinking. If well-cleaning and chlorination occurs, the water will be acceptable for drinking. The Austrian Military will be responsible for cleaning some of these wells.

10. CHF International plans to construct one prototype semi-permanent shelter in an internally displaced person (IDP) center on January 18 or 19. [Note: The USAID/DART LO will follow-up and attempt to obtain further information and pictures of the construction of these shelters and materials used. End Note.]

11. The U.S. Military will continue to conduct school debris clearing and plans to complete the clearing by January 25. On January 19, a coordinated effort to construct temporary latrines at schools began within Galle District. The U.S. Military, with materials provided by the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Vision, will construct the foundations. A total of 40 latrines (each latrine includes one male and one female unit) will be constructed for a total of 80 toilets.

12. According to the USAID/DART LO, the Deputy Provincial Directors of Health Services (DPDHS) office

in Galle will conduct water quality investigations in Galle District. Public Health Inspectors for Galle District will conduct chlorination and microbiological investigations at the distribution and storage levels. The Austrian Military is responsible for well chlorination in Galle and Habaraduwa, and Technicsches Hilfswerk (THW) will conduct well chlorination in Galle and Hikkaduwa.

¶13. As of January 18, there are 48 IDP centers within Galle District, housing 6,092 people.

Donor Coordination

¶14. On January 18, the USAID/DART attended the weekly bi-lateral donors meeting hosted by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID). Attendees included representatives from the United Kingdom, Sweden, Norway, the European Union, New Zealand, Australia, Switzerland, Germany, Holland, Belgium, France, Canada, and Japan. Meeting participants discussed an upcoming verification trip by several bilateral donors, coordination with the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' (OCHA) recently arrived Humanitarian Information Center (HIC), and bilateral input into the ongoing international financial institutions (IFI) sector assessments.

¶15. Several donors including the United Kingdom, Belgium, Holland, and Norway plan to undertake a verification trip to Trincomalee in eastern Sri Lanka in early February 2005 in order to assess issues such as equity in the distribution of relief supplies, unmet needs and other information related to bilateral planning. Regarding coordination, responsibility for the bilateral donor spreadsheet (now being maintained by the Australians) will transfer to the HIC. Finally, the group discussed bilateral input for the IFI sector assessments that are now underway. According to the USAID/DART, the group is concerned that the IFIs are anxious to complete sector assessments and in their haste may pay less attention to such concerns as the peace process, decentralization, transparency, and governance in developing response programs.

Coordination with the U.S. Military

¶16. According to the USAID/DART LO posted to the CNO, the U.S. Military will transport 10 metric tons (MT) of produce to Jaffna on January 19 for camp residents in Jaffna. On January 20, the U.S. Military will transport 10 MT of produce to Batticaloa. On January 21 and 22, the U.S. military will transport 20 MT.

¶17. On January 18, the U.S. Military, in conjunction with the Indian Army, airlifted by helicopter 50 cases of bottled water, 1,200 paper towels, 204 20-liter water containers, 200 mattresses, and clothing to Koggala in Galle District.

¶18. Between January 4 and January 18, the U.S. Military completed 58 flights carrying relief supplies within Sri Lanka. The U.S. Military has completed or initiated 73 requests for assistance, including the 58 flights of relief supplies, as well as requests for water distribution, engineer support, and rubble clearance.

Water and Sanitation

¶19. According to the USAID/DART Water and Sanitation Officer (WSO), water tankering will continue until all repairs, including well cleaning, are completed. To date, 3,500 of 12,000 wells have been cleaned. The earthquake and tsunamis destroyed 10 urban water supply systems, but restoration of all the systems was completed within four days. At a water and sanitation sector meeting, the Ministry of Urban Development and Water Supply (MUDWS) distributed a list of immediate requirements including alum, water meters, mini-excavators, engine-driven portable well-cleaning equipment, and portable generators. USAID/OFDA implementing partner World Vision has already provided alum.

¶20. The USAID/DART WSO reported that sanitation is a priority need, but inaccurate information about needs is being disseminated. To verify needs in the water and sanitation sector, from January 21 to 25, the

USAID/DART WSO will meet with local government officials as well as USAID/OFDA implementing partners in Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Ampara, Hambantota, Matara, and Galle.

¶21. The USAID/DART WSO stated that UNICEF is attempting to create a district profile database that will provide an overview of needs for each district.

¶22. In February 2005, the National Water Supply and Drainage Board, in conjunction with the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), will conduct training for water quality testing of wells and community water systems. Testing of these systems will commence on March 15.

Shelter

¶23. On January 17, the USAID/DART hosted the second weekly shelter meeting with implementing partners GOAL, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), CHF International, and Shelter for Life. The group discussed the new indicators that were developed by USAID and agreed to minor modifications that will be circulated to other implementing partners for their input. These indicators will allow the USAID/DART to have a solid basis for tracking temporary shelter progress as well as progress on other activities (relief supplies, cash-for-work, and micro-finance activities etc.).

USAID/DART Staffing

¶24. As of January 20, there are 13 members of the USAID/DART in Sri Lanka and Maldives. Of the 12 USAID/DART members, one individual is in Galle and another team member is in Male', Maldives.

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